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WEEKEND
BOSTON
January 4-6, 2013
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Why Portland just isn't quite big enough for 'Portlandia'

Carrie Brownstein and Fred Armisen on trying to reach bigger audiences, on knowing what to do (and what not to do) with recurring characters and on staying true to themselves {page 06}

local
Boston-based reporter kidnapped abroad {page 02}

television
We're down for some more 'Downton' {page 08}

films
'Texas Chainsaw 3D' stars get scared {page 12}

By the numbers

$1,100

The 158 House and Senate legislators sworn in this week will see their base pay drop in 2013 and 2014 by $1,110 compared to those who served during the past two-year session, according to the State House News. The base pay for legislators has been reset to $60,032 a year. METRO

Today's local tweet

"Thought I woke up in Siberia this morning, not #boston I have turned eskimo"

@STACEFACE0305, WHO WAS CONFUSED BY THURSDAY'S SINGLE-DIGIT MORNING TEMPERATURES

In the news

▶ It's not the heat, it's the humidity.

Boston records warmest year in 2012

BOSTON. Was it hot enough for you in 2012?

Last year was the warmest Boston has seen, at least since weather record-keeping started in 1872, according to the National Weather Service.

Boston's average temperature last year was 54.2 degrees, which is 2.8 degrees above normal.

Last year was also a dry year, with the Hub recording just under 37 inches of precipitation. That's about 7 inches below normal. METRO

Mass. to lay out financing plan for transportation fix

BOSTON. A long-awaited transportation financing plan will be rolled out over the next month, according to the State House News. On Thursday, Gov. Deval Patrick said the financing plan will come in two phases, starting with a report due to the Legislature on Monday that details options to pay for infrastructure improvements and maintenance.

The MassDOT board is required to produce a financing plan by Jan. 7 to address a budget gap of roughly $1 billion per year. SHNS

Police: Keep belongings close

BOSTON. Transit Police on Thursday warned travelers at South Station to keep their possessions close after a Boston man was arrested for allegedly swiping a backpack that contained an iPad.

The backpack rested on a bench while its owner visited the station's food court.

Transit Police arrested Jason Leal, 32, after he admitted to stealing the device. Police said he also had two warrants out for his arrest for larceny of a credit card and drug possession. METRO

Boston-based journalist missing again in Syria

▶ Family says freelance journalist was kidnapped ▶ Parents make plea to captors ▶ It's second time James Foley is kidnapped working overseas

The parents of a 39-year-old foreign correspondent who has worked for a Boston-based international news organization and has been missing for weeks in Syria are concerned for their son's well-being and appealed for his release on Thursday.

James Foley's parents made a plea to his captors from their New Hampshire home.

"I appeal to the people who have Jim to let us know where he is and to help us secure his release and to give us some information in terms of his welfare and health," his father, John, told reporters. "We'd like them to contact us."

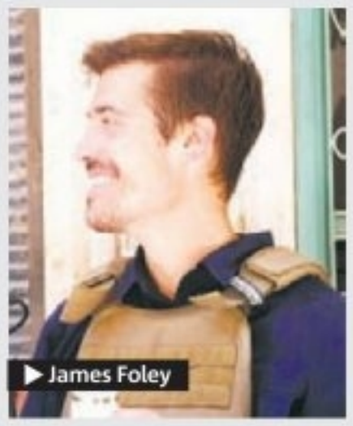
Foley's father and mother, Diane, said they have no information about their son.

His family said unidentified gunmen kidnapped him while in northwest Syria on Thanksgiving. No group has claimed responsibility for the kidnapping.

Online effort

Family and friends of James Foley recently set up a website and various social media pages to plead for his release. His family said unidentified gunmen kidnapped him while in northwest Syria on Thanksgiving.

More than 2,500 people had signed on online appeal for Foley's release as of Thursday afternoon.



▶ James Foley

"We are gravely concerned about Jimmy's health and welfare and safety. We miss him terribly."

JOHN FOLEY, FATHER OF MISSING JOURNALIST JAMES FOLEY

Foley's parents described their son as a freelance journalist who had been working in Syria for the past year to give voices to the people living in a region going through war.

"Jim is the oldest of five children. He has reported independently and objectively from the Middle East for the past five years. Prior to his work as a journalist, Jim helped empower disadvantaged individuals as a teacher and mentor assisting them in improving their lives," his family said in a statement posted online.

While Foley was based in Boston, his family lives in New Hampshire.

Foley was working for GlobalPost in April 2011 when he was captured by forces loyal to then-Libyan leader Muammar Gaddafi, according to the news agency. He spent 44 days in Libyan prisons before being released.

Foley was recently working for Agence France-Presse and submitted video material to the agency the day before he disappeared, the news agency said.

AFP also reported that Foley was picked up by four men who later released his driver and translator.

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House. Fire

▶ Firefighters from nearby Lynn helped battle the blaze on Andrew Road in Swampscott.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

Firefighters brave frigid temps, flames

A three-alarm fire ripped through a Swampscott home Thursday morning. No one was home when the blaze raced through the house at about 9 a.m., according to the Swampscott Reporter. One firefighter suffered minor injuries and a dog was killed. The cause of the fire was not immediately clear. Some hydrants in the area were frozen, causing difficulties for fire crews, according to the Swampscott Reporter. METRO

News in brief

Teen pedestrian struck, killed

NEWTON. An 18-year-old man was apparently trying to walk across Route 95 in Newton early Thursday morning when he was struck by a car on the northbound side of the highway, then thrown across the median into the southbound side where he was struck again.

Reishaun Michael Hopkins, 18, of Malden was pronounced dead at the scene. Police said he worked at the Honeydew Donuts in the Newton rest area and was scheduled to work a day shift.

The accident happened at 6:30 a.m. near Exit 21.

As of press time Thursday, police said no charges had been filed in connection with the accident. METRO/MR

20 The accident caused a traffic snarl, with some motorists reporting 20-mile back-ups of more than two hours.

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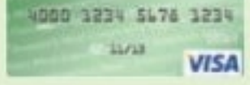

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News in brief

Warren to hold swearing-in in Roxbury

BOSTON. Sen. Elizabeth Warren, 63, was sworn in by Vice President Joe Biden as the first female senator from Massachusetts yesterday.

"I am honored to have the opportunity to serve as your senator. I am grateful for your hard work and your support. I am deeply touched by the trust and faith that you have put in me. And I pledge today that I will never stop fighting for you," Warren posted online.

A reenacted swearing-in ceremony will take place Saturday at Roxbury Community College, with Supreme Court Justice Elena Kagan presiding. METRO

20 Women were sworn in as senators Thursday. It is the most number of women to serve in the Senate at one time.

Cold. T troubles

▶ Busing only lasted a few hours on Thursday.

NICOLAUS CZARNECKI/METRO

A cracked track on the Red Line

Freezing temperatures Thursday caused track problems on the MBTA, particularly on the Red Line, where frustrated riders had to emerge from the subway to hop a bus between Kendall and Harvard stations. A T spokesman said a broken rail was discovered at Central Station just before noon. The problem was caused by frigid temperatures, which on Thursday dipped down into the single digits. METRO

Natick Democrat to file anti-gun violence bill within two weeks

A Natick Democrat plans to file an anti-gun violence bill within the next two weeks that will address not just the type of guns and ammunition that can be sold legally in Massachusetts, but also who can buy them.

On Thursday, Rep. David Linsky, a former prosecutor, hosted a crowded, closed-door meeting at the State House to talk about reducing gun violence and update existing gun laws in the wake of the Sandy Hook Elementary School shooting in Newtown, Conn.

Linsky told the State House News that the bill will address who should be eligible to own a gun, gun storage, mental health screening for gun owners and an update to the definitions and types of firearms and ammunition permitted under the state's assault weapons ban.

"If we have children, if we have loved ones, if we have families, if we care about the people of Massachusetts, we have a stake in this because our goal is quite simple. It is to reduce gun violence in Massachusetts," Linsky said at a press conference after the meeting. SHNS

Quoted: Anti-gun advocate

"If we have children, if we have loved ones, if we have families, if we care about the people of Massachusetts, we have a stake in this because our goal is quite simple. It is to reduce gun violence in Massachusetts."

LINSKY

150

Linsky said about 150 to 200 people attended the meeting, including 100 Democratic and Republican members of the House and Senate interested in reforming the state's gun laws.

"I was interested in nonprofit management, and wanted to round out my skill set in fundraising. I liked the breadth of topics, and the instructors were knowledgeable and helpful—experienced practitioners with real-world experience."

— BARRIE ATKIN, BU certificate awarded 2009

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New Sandy Hook school opens doors

GETTY IMAGES

▶ This sign that welcomed children from Sandy Hook Elementary School sits on the road in Monroe, Conn., on Jan. 3, 2013.

Twenty days after the massacre that left 20 first-graders and seven adults dead at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Connecticut, plunging a rural New England town and the nation into grief, classes resumed on Thursday for the more than 400 students who lived through the harrowing assault.

Across Newtown's sprawling Sandy Hook neighborhood where the attack took place, children bundled boarded buses decked in their school colors for the seven-mile journey to their new school.

Chalk Hill Middle School, an unused school in the neighboring town of Monroe, was refurbished specifically for the students from Newtown and now bears a new but familiar name — Sandy Hook Elementary School.

Students on packed buses waved at clusters of photographers, and TV cameras gathered at street corners along the bus route. Heightened security measures meant media were kept well away, but from a small plane above the new school, children getting off buses were seen running, hopping and skipping through the doors.

A steady stream of parents' cars were seen pulling up to drop students off at the main entrance, where they were greeted by a dark-suited official.

Anca Roberto, 35, put her 5-year-old daughter, a kindergartner, on the bus not far from the old Sandy Hook school, which remains a crime scene closed to everyone but police.

Roberto said she had been nervous about the return to school until Wednesday, when she and her daughter attended an open house at the new location. Her daughter was thrilled to find her cubby intact, moved from the old school, and she "screeched" when she saw her friends. **REUTERS**

Safest school

With safety foremost on the minds of parents and officials, the school has been outfitted with a new security system. Monroe Police Department officers were patrolling the grounds, and all outside doorways and sidewalks were under surveillance.

Penn State has tough battle

Gov. faces obstacles

Penn St. lawsuit 'is a long shot'

PENNSYLVANIA. Targeting the National Collegiate Athletic Association may be popular politically where Penn State football is widely loved, but a federal court might rule that the state lacks standing to bring the lawsuit in the first place, experts said. The Republican governor of Pennsylvania, Tom Corbett, said Wednesday that he would file a lawsuit to overturn NCAA punishments imposed on Penn State in the wake of the Sandusky scandal. **REUTERS**

GETTY IMAGES

▶ Penn State spirit

Police have evidence

Men accused of rape charged, victim's father calls for hanging

NEW DELHI. Five Indian men were formally charged in court on Thursday with the gang rape and murder of a physiotherapy student in a case that has generated widespread anger about the government's inability to prevent violence. The attack provoked furious protests close to the seat of government in New Delhi. **REUTERS**

Hillary resting

Clinton plans to return to work

NEW YORK. Secretary of State Hillary Clinton is resting at home in New York after being treated for a blood clot. She plans to return to her office next week, the State Department said on Thursday. Clinton, 65, has suffered a series of ailments over the last month including a stomach virus, a concussion and a blood clot in a vein behind her right ear. She was released from New York Presbyterian Hospital on Wednesday. **REUTERS**

28 Voting majority for John Boehner as he was reelected speaker of the House of Representatives

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WEEKEND

- Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein on getting bigger and avoiding growing pains
- Why you can expect to see more of your favorite characters from the first two seasons and why you may find them in places outside of Oregon

MEGAN HOLMES / IFC

Expanding the world of 'Portlandia'

Fred Armisen and Carrie Brownstein wanted to take the comic characters they developed in the first two seasons of sketch comedy show "Portlandia" someplace new.

Playing themselves, Armisen and Brownstein venture to Seattle to recruit prospective Portland residents (and end up with Chloe Sevigny as a new roommate); as Toni and Candace, they investigate a negative review on Yelp, which requires them to actually leave their feminist bookstore. Even Spyke — Armisen's ever-cynical and hyper-local hipster bike messenger character — takes his crusade to "take back MTV" to New York City on Friday's premiere.

But Armisen and Brownstein say that putting their characters in different locales is only part of the new direction for "Portlandia."

"This year we were all about making it less conceptual and more about 'Who are these people?' and then 'Which of these scenarios do they lend themselves to?' like putting a handful of characters in conflict," says Brownstein.

Quoted

"I'm really not totally interested in crowd response as a means of gauging what to do next, creatively." BROWNSTEIN

It seems like "Portlandia" itself is in conflict. What began as a niche sketch show that skewered a city known for its quiet eccentricities has struck a universal chord. From the Season 1 launch to the Season 2 premiere, the show saw a 39 percent increase in viewers. Not bad for a show that's just as apt to cast indie rock musicians as comedic actors. In between seasons 2 and 3, the two stars toured a live show that featured as many earnest musical performances as it did comedy bits. Armisen acknowledges that the show has a bit of an identity crisis, but he says it's liberating.

"I want to reach many people," he says. "It's a comedy show, and I guess technically it's a variety show because there's music in it. And so I have no limitations on it."

But Armisen bristles at any insinuation that "Portlandia" is a place where he can put ideas that would be "too weird" for that other comedy show he's on, "Saturday Night Live."

"There are things on 'Portlandia' that are broad," he argues. "It's hard to classify what something is, but 'SNL' historically has done some weird stuff and I would say that that show has allowed me to do some very weird things that I can't believe I've gotten away with."

Brownstein says she and Armisen have focused on certain characters throughout the seasons not because they're reliable for audiences, but because of the possibilities they present: "I'm really not totally interested in crowd response as a means of gauging what to do next, creatively. ... You can just really go down a rabbit hole with that, like trying to think from a marketing or network standpoint," she says. "It kind of has to stem from the characters that we feel the most invested in."

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Tune in

"Portlandia" premieres Friday at 10:30 p.m. on IFC.

No sellouts

The bigger, the better

The night before this interview, we spotted Armisen at the 12.12.12 concert in Madison Square Garden, taking in some of the biggest acts in music. He says he is not at all like Spyke, that character of his who becomes enraged when somebody he doesn't approve of joins in on a trend.

"Even at my most punk, as a teenager, I embraced the biggest bands," he says. "I remember in high school, one of the biggest bands was The Police, and to me, I didn't care, and I never used the word 'sellout.' I loved The Police! I would love my Dead Kennedys and Bad Brains records, and at the same time I embraced going to see huge bands. I don't subscribe to any theory that 'big is a bad thing.' In fact, it's the opposite. It's great!"

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▶ "Downton Abbey" Season 3 premieres Sunday at 9 p.m. on PBS.

3 Things to know about 'Downton Abbey' Season 3

What to expect for the lords and ladies of the British estate — and their servants — in the upcoming episodes

After World War I, England enters a period of recovery (not without drama)

In Season 2, the residents of Downton Abbey survived the Great War, as well as the Spanish flu pandemic (not to mention plenty of interpersonal drama). "The war brought a tremendous disruption to England and took many, many families of all sorts," says "Downton" creator Julian Fellowes, whose characters were nonetheless not immune to the casualties of war. He explains, "There were those few years when people were trying to decide: 'Was the world going to be the same as it was before? Was the future going to be completely different?' And that's really the theme of the series."

The fate of Downton Abbey is in question

A financial crisis at the hands of Robert, Earl of Grantham (Hugh Bonneville), potentially spells the end of his great house, his family's standing and servants' livelihoods. "[After the war], it was a toss-up in many [estate-owning] families as to whether or not it was worth the struggle to go on," Fellowes says.

As the upstairs/downstairs way of life for this entitled British clan and their employees becomes more difficult to maintain, the American Cora, Countess of Grantham (Elizabeth McGovern), will prove to be the most adept in adjusting to the changing times.

"Cora is less afraid of the future than Robert is," Fellowes says. "And now you'll start to see more and more of that because she's less afraid of expressing [her American sensibilities]. If anyone understands the world that's coming, it's Cora."

Cora's mother is a force to be reckoned with

Martha Levinson arrives from Long Island for the wedding of her granddaughter, Lady Mary (Michelle Dockery), and long-lost Downton heir Matthew Crawley (Dan Stevens). Martha has the money to save the estate, but an American attitude that clashes with the old-school Granthams. Shirley MacLaine brings a steely wit to the role, which does not seem like such a stretch for the acclaimed actress.

"It was an extraordinary experience for me in stamina and in work ethic, because we were shooting outside in the rain and in the wind with our formal gear on and nobody seemed to notice," MacLaine recalls. "So I quickly stepped right in there and acted like I didn't notice either. I had a fabulous time. I will never forget it."

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THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY AN IMAX 3D EXPERIENCE (PG-13) 10:55, 2:30, 6:10, 9:50. IMAX 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN HFR 3D (PG-13) 3:20, 10:50. HIGH FRAME RATE;RealD 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) 10:30, 7:45. Digital Presentation
THE IMPOSSIBLE (PG-13) 11:05, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:25.C INDEPENDENT; CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
JACK REACHER (PG-13) 12:50, 4:00, 7:15, 10:30. Digital Presentation
LES MISERABLES (PG-13) **Fri** 11:05, 12:00, 2:30, 3:20, 6:10, 7:00, 9:55, 10:40. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 11:05-12:00-2:30-3:20-6:10-7:00-9:55-10:55, Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:05-12:00-2:30-3:20-6:10-7:00-9:55-10:40. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:40, 3:40, 6:45. RealD 3D; **Sun** 12:40-3:40-6:45-9:45. RealD 3D
LINCOLN (PG-13) 11:20, 2:45, 6:05, 9:30. Digital Presentation
MONSTERS, INC. 3D (G) 10:30, 12:55. RealD 3D
NOT FADE AWAY (R) **Fri** 10:35.C INDEPENDENT; Digital Presentation; **Sat** 8:05.C INDEPENDENT;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:35.C INDEPENDENT; Digital Presentation
PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:30, 2:15, 4:45, 7:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Fri** and **Sat** 9:40. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:30-2:15-4:45-7:10-9:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
PROMISED LAND (R) **Fri** 10:30, 1:00, 3:30, 6:00, 8:30. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 1:00-3:30-6:00-8:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:30-1:00-3:30-6:00-8:30. Digital Presentation
THE ROCKY HORROR PICTURE SHOW (R) **Sat** 12:01. Digital Presentation
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) 11:30, 1:55, 4:50, 7:50, 10:40. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL (PG-13) 2:00, 11:20. Digital Presentation
TEXAS CHAINSAW 3D (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:00, 1:30, 4:00, 6:20, 8:45, 11:20. RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:00-1:30-4:00-6:20-8:40-11:00. RealD 3D
THIS IS 40 (R) 10:35, 1:40, 4:55, 8:00, 11:05. Digital Presentation
ZERO DARK THIRTY (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; 10:50-12:10-2:25-3:45-6:00-7:20-8:20-9:40. Digital Presentation

REGAL CINEMAS

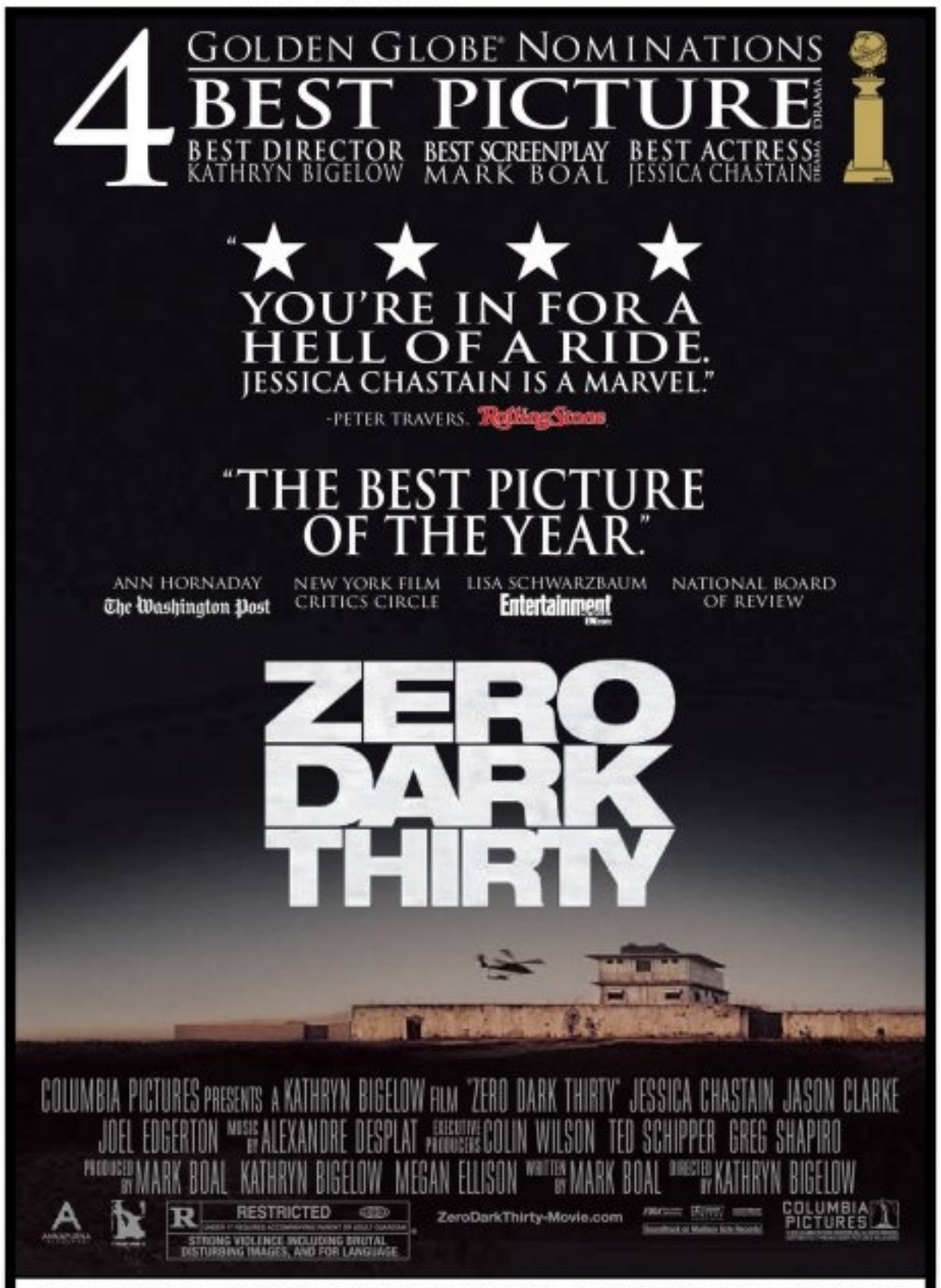
Fenway 13 & RPX
617-424-6266
201 Brookline Ave.
DJANGO UNCHAINED (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:10, 3:10, 7:05, 9:50. CC-Closed Captions; **Sun** 11:10-3:10-7:05-9:50. CC-Closed Captions
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) 11:05, 6:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) 2:50, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE IMPOSSIBLE (PG-13) 12:20, 3:40, 7:10, 10:10. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
JACK REACHER (PG-13) **Fri** 11:35, 3:15, 6:35, 9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; **Sat** 6:35-9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service; **Sun** 11:35-3:15-6:35-9:55. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
LES MISERABLES (PG-13) 12:00, 4:00, 8:00. CC/DV
LINCOLN (PG-13) 11:15, 3:05, 6:40, 10:25. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: LES TROYENS (NR) **Sat** 12:00
PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG) 12:05, 3:20, 6:30, 11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
PROMISED LAND (R) 12:10, 4:10, 7:20, 10:20
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) **Fri** 11:20, 3:25, 6:50, 10:55. CC-Closed Captions; **Sat** 6:50-10:55. CC-Closed Captions; **Sun** 11:20-3:25-6:50-10:55. CC-Closed Captions
TEXAS CHAINSAW 3D (R) 12:30, 3:50, 7:40, 10:30. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Vide;RealD 3D
THIS IS 40 (R) 12:15, 4:05, 7:15, 10:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service
ZERO DARK THIRTY (R) 11:00, 3:00, 7:00, 10:50. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Ser;RPX; 11:30-3:30-7:30-10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video Service

the COOLIDGE CORNER THEATRE

Coolidge Corner Theatre
617-734-2500
290 Harvard St., Brookline
BARBARA (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:45, 2:10, 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; **Sun** 2:30-4:45-7:10-9:40.
THE BROOD (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:00
THE CENTRAL PARK FIVE (NR) **Fri** 11:30, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00; **Sat** 2:30-4:50-7:20-10:00.; **Sun** 11:30-2:00-4:40-7:20-10:00.
DJANGO UNCHAINED (R) **Fri** 11:15, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00; **Sat** 11:30-3:00-6:30-10:00.; **Sun** 3:00-6:30-10:00.
KIDS' SHOW: DEBBIE & FRIENDS (NR) **Sun** 10:30
PROMISED LAND (R) **Fri** 2:20, 4:45, 7:10, 9:40; **Fri** 11:00, Box Office Babies; **Sat** and **Sun** 12:00-2:20-4:45-7:10-9:40.

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Braintree 10
888-AMC-4FUN
Route 93 off of Exit 6
DJANGO UNCHAINED (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30, 3:00, 6:30, 10:00. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:20-2:50-6:20-9:50. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 4:00, 9:45. RealD 3D; **Sun** 3:50-9:45. RealD 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) 12:00, 6:45. Digital Presentation
JACK REACHER (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:30, 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 10:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:30-1:30-4:30-7:30-10:25. Digital Presentation
LES MISERABLES (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:45, 2:15, 6:15, 10:20. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:45-2:15-6:15-9:30. Digital Presentation
MONSTERS, INC. 3D (G) **Fri** 10:30. RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:30. RealD 3D
PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:15, 1:45, 4:15, 7:00, 10:50. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:15-1:45-4:15-7:00-10:30. Digital Presentation
TEXAS CHAINSAW 3D (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:00, 2:00, 5:30, 8:00, 10:45. CC-Closed Captions;RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:00-2:00-5:30-8:00-10:20. CC-Closed Captions;RealD 3D
THIS IS 40 (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 1:00, 4:00, 7:45, 9:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 12:50-4:00-7:25-10:25. Digital Presentation
THE IMPOSSIBLE (PG-13) **Fri** 1:25, 4:10, 7:00, 9:40; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:45-1:25-4:10-7:00-9:40.
LINCOLN (PG-13) **Fri** 1:15, 2:15, 4:30, 5:30, 8:00, 9:00; **Sat** and **Sun** 11:00-1:15-2:15-4:30-5:30-8:00-9:00.
PROMISED LAND (R) **Fri** 1:30, 4:35, 7:05, 9:35; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:55-1:30-4:35-7:05-9:35.
RUST & BONE (DE ROUILLE ET D'OS) (R) **Fri** 1:15, 4:00, 6:45, 9:30; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:40-1:15-4:00-6:45-9:30.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NEW YORK FILM CRITICS CIRCLE
LISA SCHWARZBAUM Entertainment Weekly
NATIONAL BOARD OF REVIEW
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LANDMARK KENDALL SQUARE CINEMA
617-499-1996
1 Kendall Square, Cambridge
ANNA KARENINA (R) 1:35, 6:55
DJANGO UNCHAINED (R) **Fri** 1:00, 3:40, 4:40, 7:30, 8:30; **Sat** and **Sun** 12:00-1:00-3:40-4:40-7:30-8:30.
HITCHCOCK (PG-13) **Fri** 4:20, 9:50; **Sat** and **Sun** 10:50-4:20-9:50.
HYDE PARK ON HUDSON (R) **Fri** 4:10-7:20-10:10. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 1:30-4:10-7:20. Digital Presentation
MONSTERS, INC. 3D (G) **Fri** 2:10, 4:30. RealD 3D; **Sat** 11:45-2:10-4:30. RealD 3D; **Sun** 2:10-4:30. RealD 3D
PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG) **Fri** 1:45, 5:00, 7:50, 10:55. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 11:00-1:45-5:00-7:50-10:55. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 1:45-5:00-7:50. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30-3:20-7:40. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation
THE GUILT TRIP (PG-13) 6:50, 9:30. Digital Presentation
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN HFR 3D (PG-13) 11:15, 3:00. HIGH FRAME RATE;RealD 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 7:00, 10:45. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 7:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Chestnut Hill 5
888-AMC-4FUN
Route 9 Newton
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) **Fri** 6:30. RealD 3D; **Sat** 3:00-10:00. RealD 3D; **Sun** 6:30. RealD 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) **Fri** 3:00, 10:00. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 11:30-6:30. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 3:00. Digital Presentation
JACK REACHER (PG-13) **Fri** 2:00, 5:10, 8:00, 10:45. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:45-2:00-5:10-8:00-10:45. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 2:00-5:10-8:00. Digital Presentation
LES MISERABLES (PG-13) **Fri** 1:30, 4:10, 7:20, 10:10. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 10:30-1:30-6:45, 9:50. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 6:45. Digital Presentation

AMC ENTERTAINMENT

Framingham 16
888-AMC-4FUN
22 Flutie Pass
DJANGO UNCHAINED (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:30, 3:20, 7:15, 10:50. CC-Closed Captions;Digital Presentation; Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
JACK REACHER (PG-13) **Fri** 10:20, 1:30, 4:40, 7:50, 11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sat** 1:30-4:40-7:50-11:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:15-1:15-4:15-7:15-10:15. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
LES MISERABLES (PG-13) 10:30, 12:20, 2:15, 4:10, 6:00, 8:00. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI (PG) 12:30. Digital Presentation
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 3:30, 6:40, 9:45. RealD 3D; **Sun** 3:30-6:30-9:35. RealD 3D
LINCOLN (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:40, 3:10, 6:45, 10:20. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation; **Sun** 11:40-3:10-6:45-10:00. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: LES TROYENS (NR) **Sat** 12:00
MONSTERS, INC. 3D (G) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:45, 1:20, 4:15. RealD 3D; **Sun** 10:45-1:20-4:20. RealD 3D
PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:15, 12:10, 2:45, 5:25, 8:15, 10:45. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:20-12:10-2:45-5:25-8:00-10:25. Digital Presentation
PROMISED LAND (R) 11:20, 2:10, 5:00, 7:45, 10:30. Digital Presentation
RISE OF THE GUARDIANS 3D (PG) 10:00. RealD 3D
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) **Fri** 10:50, 1:50, 5:10, 8:10, 11:00. Digital Presentation; **Sat** 8:10-11:00. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:50-1:50-5:10-8:15. Digital Presentation
SKYFALL (PG-13) 9:40. CC/DVS-Closed Captions & Descriptive Video;Digital Presentation
TEXAS CHAINSAW 3D (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:50, 2:30, 5:00, 7:30, 10:00. RealD 3D; **Sun** 11:50-2:30-5:00-7:30-9:55. RealD 3D
THIS IS 40 (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:45, 4:00, 7:20, 10:35. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 12:45-4:00-7:10-10:10. Digital Presentation
ZERO DARK THIRTY (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 10:00, 11:00, 1:40, 2:40, 5:30, 6:30, 9:15, 10:15. Digital Presentation; **Sun** 10:00-11:00-1:40-2:40-5:30-6:15-9:15-9:50. Digital Presentation

SHOWCASE

Showcase Cinema de Lux Patriot Place
800-315-4000
24 Patroit Place, Foxboro
DJANGO UNCHAINED (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:45, 1:25, 3:10, 4:50, 6:35, 8:15, 10:05, 11:45. DIGITAL PROJECTION; 11:45-3:10-6:35-10:05. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level; **Sun** 11:45-1:25-3:10-4:50-6:35-8:15-10:05. DIGITAL PROJECTION
THE GUILT TRIP (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:15, 2:35, 4:55, 7:15, 9:40, 11:55. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:15-2:35-4:55-7:15-9:40. DIGITAL PROJECTION
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN 3D (PG-13) 9:00. REAL D 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY IN HFR 3D (PG-13) 11:15, 2:45, 6:15, 9:45. HIGH FRAME RATE IN REAL D 3D
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 12:00, 3:30, 7:00, 10:45. RWC/DVS IN DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:00-3:30-7:00. RWC/DVS IN DIGITAL PROJECTION
JACK REACHER (PG-13) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:55, 2:50, 6:30, 9:30, 12:15. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 11:55-2:50-6:30-9:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION
LES MISERABLES (PG-13) 11:20, 2:40, 6:05, 9:25. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level: 11:20-11:50-2:40-3:15-6:05-6:40-9:25-10:00. DIGITAL PROJECTION
LINCOLN (PG-13) **Fri** 9:30, 12:20, 3:20, 6:45, 9:50. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** and **Sun** 12:10-3:20-6:45-9:50. DIGITAL PROJECTION
THE METROPOLITAN OPERA: LES TROYENS (NR) **Sat** 12:00. LIVE HD; **Sat** 12:00. LIVE HD;Lux Level
MONSTERS, INC. 3D (G) 11:30, 1:45, 4:05, 6:25. REAL D 3D
PARENTAL GUIDANCE (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:25, 1:55, 4:30, 7:05, 9:35, 12:00. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 11:25-1:55-4:30-7:05-9:35. DIGITAL PROJECTION
PROMISED LAND (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 11:40, 2:10, 4:45, 7:25, 10:10, 12:30. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 11:40-2:10-4:45-7:25-10:10. DIGITAL PROJECTION
TEXAS CHAINSAW (R) 12:05. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level; 12:05. DIGITAL PROJECTION
TEXAS CHAINSAW 3D (R) **Fri** and **Sat** 2:20, 4:40, 7:40, 9:55, 12:05. REAL D 3D; 2:20-4:40-7:40-9:55. Lux Level;REAL D 3D; **Sun** 2:20-4:40-7:40-9:55. REAL D 3D
THIS IS 40 (R) **Fri** 12:45, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Fri** 12:45-3:45-7:10-10:15. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level; **Sat** 7:10-10:15. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sat** 7:10-10:15. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level; **Sun** 12:45-3:45-7:10-10:15. DIGITAL PROJECTION; **Sun** 12:45-3:45-7:10-10:15. DIGITAL PROJECTION;Lux Level

SOMERVILLE THEATRE

Somerville Theatre
617-625-5700
55 Davis Square
ARGO (R) **Fri** 4:30, 7:10, 9:40; **Sat** and **Sun** 2:00-4:30-7:10-9:40.
LIFE OF PI (PG) **Fri** 4:45; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:45-4:45.
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) 7:40
NOT FADE AWAY (R) **Fri** 5:00, 7:20, 9:45; **Sat** and **Sun** 2:15-5:00-7:20-9:45.
SILVER LININGS PLAYBOOK (R) **Fri** 4:40, 7:30, 10:00; **Sat** and **Sun** 2:10-4:40-7:30-10:00.
THIS IS 40 (R) **Fri** 4:15, 7:00, 9:50; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:30-4:15-7:00-9:50.

CAPITOL THEATRE

Capitol Theatre
781-648-4340
204 Massachusetts Avenue
CALL THEATER FOR SCHEDULE.

LANDMARK EMBASSY CINEMA
781-736-7852
16 Pine St., Waltham; No Texting Allowed
ARGO (R) 1:10, 7:10
DJANGO UNCHAINED (R) **Fri** 1:25, 4:55, 8:25; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:25-4:55-8:25.
THE HOBBIT: AN UNEXPECTED JOURNEY (PG-13) **Fri** 1:20, 4:50, 8:20; **Sat** 1:20-4:50-8:20.; **Sun** 1:20-4:50-8:15.
LIFE OF PI 3D (PG) **Fri** and **Sat** 1:05, 4:05, 7:05, 9:55; **Sun** 1:05-4:05-7:05.
PROMISED LAND (R) **Fri** 1:15, 4:15, 7:15, 9:45; **Sat** 1:15-4:15-7:15-9:45.; **Sun** 1:15-4:15-7:15.
SKYFALL (PG-13) **Fri** 3:50, 9:50; **Sat** 3:50-9:50.; **Sun** 3:50.
THIS IS 40 (R) **Fri** 1:00, 4:00, 7:00, 9:50; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:00-4:00-7:00-9:50.; **Sun** 1:00-4:00-7:00.

Brattle Theatre
617-876-6837
40 Brattle Street
TIN DRUM (DIE BLECHTROMMEL) (R) **Fri** 4:45, 8:00; **Sat** and **Sun** 1:30-4:45-8:00.

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The rundown

MUSEUMS

'Mammoths and Mastodons: Titans of the Ice Age'
Through Jan. 13
Museum of Science
One Science Park, Boston
$22, 617-723-2500
www.mos.org
There's only a little more than a week to check out this fascinating exhibit. Backed by the latest scientific findings, it features a replica of Lyuba, the 40,000-year-old baby mammoth discovered in Siberia in 2007, and also delves into the relationship between humans and mammoths with examples of the world's earliest art.

FILM

'The Blood'
Monday, 7 p.m.
Coolidge Corner Theatre
290 Harvard St., Brookline
$10, 617–734–2500
www.coolidge.org
This 1979 David Cronenberg film is psychological horror in the most literal sense: It's about psychology gone wrong, in the form of therapeutic technique meant to disperse pent-up rage, with the bizarre side effect of transforming its patients' hostile feelings into nasty little creatures that go off and murder people. Sheesh! Prozac doesn't sound so bad now, does it?

COMEDY

'Spank: The Fifty Shades Parody'
Monday through Jan. 12
The Wilbur Theatre
246 Tremont St., Boston
$38-$48, 800-345-7000
www.thewilburtheatre.com
When something's already as outrageous on its own as the "Fifty Shades of Grey" series, it's not easy to write an actual parody of it. Luckily, there's one tried-and-true way to make any ridiculous thing even more ridiculous: Make it a musical. Fans and/or detractors of the series, as well as plain ol' BDSM enthusiasts (don't be shy!) should be amused.

ASTRID REICEN

▶ "Invisible Man" begins a run at the Huntington on Friday.

Theater

'Invisible Man'

Friday through Feb. 3
Boston University Theatre
264 Huntington Ave., Boston
$25-$95, 617-266-0800
www.huntingtontheatre.org
Huntington Theatre presents a dramatic adaptation of Ralph Ellison's classic novel, which depicted the existential situation of an African-American man in the Depression. Ellison's hero is haunted by what W.E.B. DuBois called the "double consciousness" of being both black and American, struggling to integrate the two into a single identity.

ART

'Objectified'
Friday through Jan. 12
Washburn Hall, Lesley University
10 Phillips PL., Cambridge
Free, 617-585-6600
www.lesley.edu
This exhibit features the work of more than 100 graduates of the Art Institute of Boston's MFA program, all riffing on the theme of objectification.

Darin Cohen: 'Lightfast'
Friday through Jan. 27
Gallery at the Piano Factory
791 Tremont St., Boston
Free, 617-437-9365
www.galleryatthepianofactory.org
Darin Cohen's paintings take recognizable figures and forms — say, a camera — and explode, smash, stretch, disintegrate and otherwise mangle them — and yet never quite beyond recognition. A few key unchanged colors and shapes are all it takes for our brains to register familiarity, only to be scandalized by the mutation.

'Community Colors: A Collaborative Art Exhibit'
Through Wednesday
Harriet Tubman House
566 Columbus Ave., Boston
Free, 617-375-8159
www.uses.org
This exhibit features artists of all ages from the South End/Lower Roxbury area, showing the remarkable range of personality and creativity that can exist in a single urban American neighborhood, from Miranda Aisling's beautifully colored texture games to Carolyn Newberger's impressionistic watercolors to Chelsea Revelle's home-spun curiosities to the rough music of JoAnn Rothschild.

BOOKS

Neil Shubin
Tuesday, 7 p.m.
Harvard Book Store
1256 Mass. Ave., Cambridge
Free, 617-661-1515
www.harvard.com
This popular science writer will appear to discuss his book "The Universe Within: Discovering the Common History of Rocks, Planets and People," which suggests that all matter, including that which makes us up, was forged in stars, and stars themselves were a part of the Big Bang, so therefore, our bodies themselves contain traces of the beginning of time. Cool!

THEATER

'33 Variations'
Friday through Feb. 2
The Lyric Stage
140 Clarendon St., Boston
$25-$58, 617-585-5678
www.lyricstage.com
In a conceit reminiscent of "The Hours" (but without the fake noses), this play hops back and forth in time between Beethoven creating his piano masterpiece "Diabelli Variations" and a modern scholar working through his own difficulties to understand the work.

MUSIC

Fat History Month
Saturday, 8 p.m.
O'Brien's Pub
3 Harvard Ave., Allston
$7, 21+, 617-782-6245
www.obrienspubboston.com
This local indie band offset their deeply melancholic sound with occasional doses of demented humor — one album cover is just a crude doodle of a pear with a penis, and one song on that album is entitled "You Can Pick Your Nose, You Can Pick Your Friends Nose, But You Can't Escape Your Horrible Family." It's a very pretty song. MATTHEW DINARO

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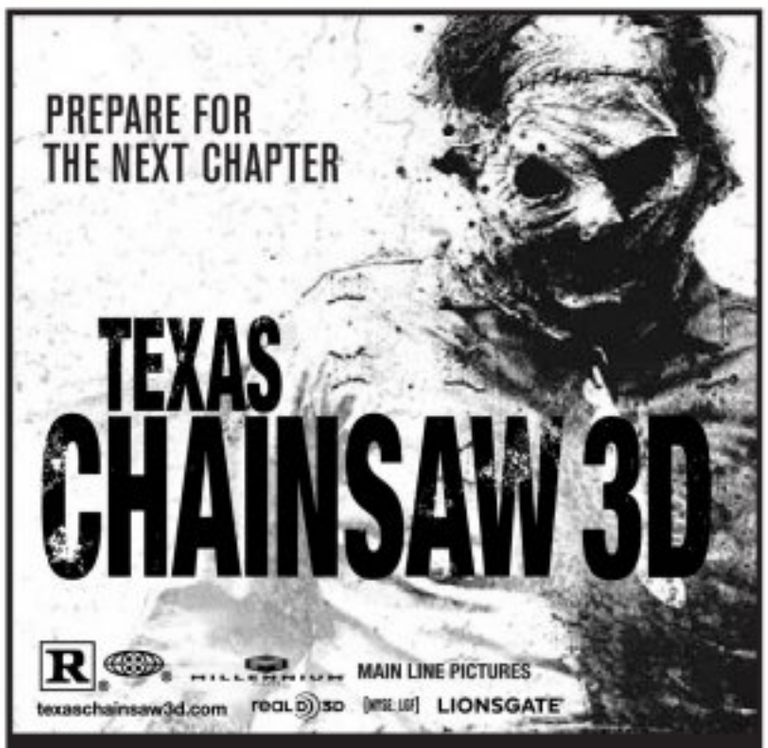

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The feed ...

▶ Checking in with The Word's readers to see about their New Year's resolutions.

@BCMollySaidSo
My resolution is to make it into tomorrow's paper. I guess the only way to do that is to lie. My resolution: Go to the gym.

@cardiff_flyer
To banish Jose Cuervo every weeknight, to publish a short story, and to tell my wife and daughter "I love you" everyday.

@lisajablon
stop eating snacks after dinner and save more money (duh...)

@1stMorningRead
To Cut My Email Inbox down from 4,896 Unread Messages To 00

@KEArion
Where to start?! Read Anna Karenina, quit online dating, write a blog, start composting...

@Bosox428Brian
not going to buy any more pet camels. 7 is enough

@Everlong13
My New Years Resolution was to not have a New Years Resolution. As you might have guessed, I'm caught in quite a paradox.

THE WORD

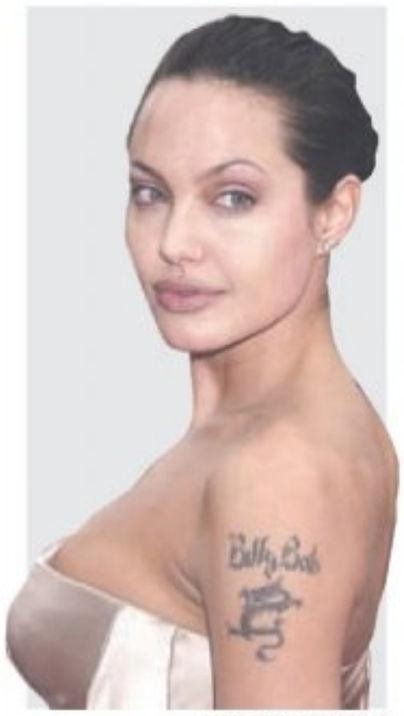
Metro's **Dorothy Robinson** shares her take on the world of gossip @dorothyatmetro dorothy.robinson@metro.us

A roundup of regrettable celebrity permanent ink

In honor of the news that Lil' Wayne got "BAKED" tattooed above his right eye (Aren't you glad he doesn't have a real job? Can you imagine him sitting in front of HR?), The Word is compiling some of the worst celebrity tattoos.

Hayden Panettiere's side tattoo "Vivere senza rimipianti" should read "to live without regrets" in Italian. Sadly, the Italian word for "regrets" is "rimpianti," meaning her tat is misspelled. So, yeah, about that whole "living without regrets" thing ...

GREGG DEGUIRE/WIREIMAGE



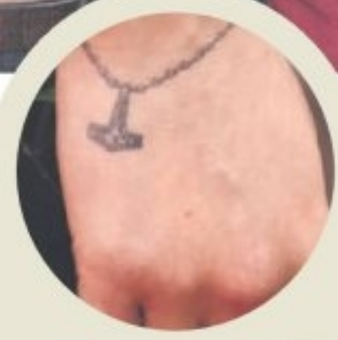
GREGG DEGUIRE/WIREIMAGE

Perhaps the most famous of bad celebrity tattoo decisions was when **Angelina Jolie** thought getting her then-husband's name in huge letters on her arm was smart. "Billy Bob" is now gone from her arm — and public consciousness.

L. COHEN/WIREIMAGE FOR GQ MAGAZINE

Steve-O's back features a giant tattoo of his face as he gives a thumbs-up, which ... never mind, that's pretty awesome.

Scarlett Johansson got this wrist tattoo last year. It has "I Love NY" written inside the "charm." At this point in her career, can't she afford a bracelet that's removable?



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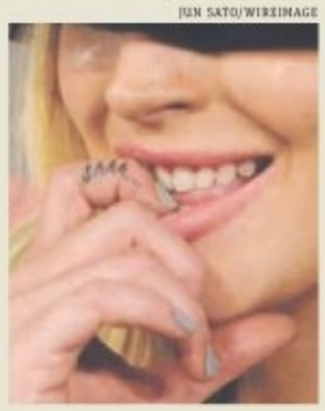
JUN SATO/WIREIMAGE



Lindsay Lohan's "shhhh" finger tattoo isn't really working for her, is it?

GETTY IMAGES

Megan Fox used to have a huge tattoo of Marilyn Monroe's face on her inner arm, but she wised up and had it removed this year. "It's traumatic and it's incredibly painful. They can't numb it enough to make the pain go away," she told Jay Leno on "The Tonight Show With Jay Leno" in February about the removal process.

Talking points

Poll: 'Hunger Games' and 'Hobbit' are most-anticipated films of 2013

This year will look a lot like 2012 at the box office, with "The Hunger Games" and "The Hobbit" at the top of cinemagoers' must-see lists, according to a survey by ticket-seller Fandango released on Thursday. The second installment in "The Hunger Games" trilogy, "The Hunger Games: Catching Fire," which is set for a November release, topped the list as 2013's most-anticipated blockbuster. "The Hobbit: The Desolation of Smaug," director **Peter Jackson**'s second installment in the "Hobbit" series of elves and dwarves, ranked second. The superhero thriller "Iron Man 3," starring **Robert Downey Jr.**, ranked third on the list and is set for a May 3 release. REUTERS

WARNER BROS.

▶ Moviegoers are looking forward to the continuing adventures of Bilbo Baggins.

Springsteen to be honored as MusiCares Person of the Year

U.S. rocker **Bruce Springsteen** has been named MusiCares' 2013 Person of the Year in recognition of his artistic achievements as well as his philanthropic work, the Recording Academy said on Wednesday. Springsteen, 63, will be honored at a Feb. 8 gala in Los Angeles hosted by comedian **Jon Stewart** and held in conjunction with the annual Grammy Awards, the recording world's most prestigious honors, which will be handed out on Feb. 10. REUTERS

'Big Bang Theory' spawns new bee species name

"Big Bang Theory" physicist Dr. Sheldon Cooper has a buzzy new claim to fame. The geeky TV character has had a species of bee named after his favorite catch phrase — "Bazinga!" Brazilian biologist **Andre Nemesio** said he named a species of Brazilian orchid bee "Euglossa bazinga" in honor of "the clever, funny, 'nerd' character Sheldon Cooper" because the bee had tricked scientists for some time with its similarity to other species. Steven Molaro, one of the executive producers of "The Big Bang Theory," said on Wednesday that the CBS comedy was "always extremely flattered when the science community embraces our show." REUTERS

▶ Alexandra Daddario stars in "Texas Chainsaw Massacre 3D."

LIONSGATE PUBLICITY

BORN TO DIE

Trey Songz and Alexandra Daddario, stars of 'Texas Chainsaw 3D,' tell us how they survived shooting the punishing bloodfest of a horror film

Alexandra Daddario and Trey Songz, the stars of the new "Texas Chainsaw 3D," talk to us about joining the long-running horror franchise, the perils of being in a scary movie and how their opinions of chain saws have changed.

This is not the first "Texas Chainsaw" movie. How many of the previous films have you seen?

Trey Songz: I've seen three.

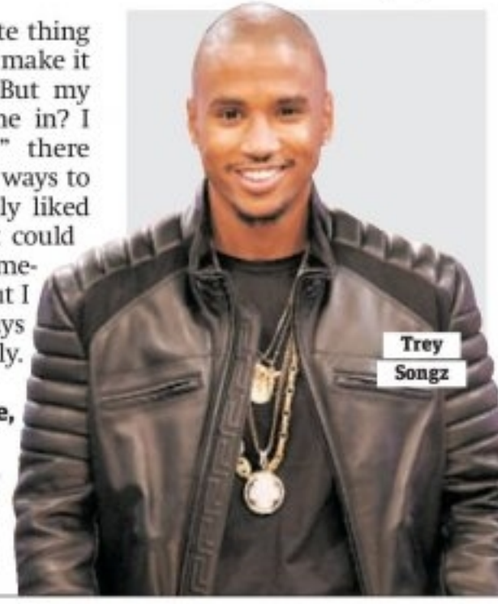
Alexandra Daddario: I've seen two. I think Trey is more of a horror fan than I am. I get scared really easily. But I watched the Jessica Biel version and the original before I did this movie.

Being a horror fan, what's your dream way to get offed in a horror movie?

TS: I mean, the ultimate thing in a horror movie is to make it through, so. [Laughs] But my dream way to get done in? I don't know. In "Saw" there were so many creative ways to die. That's what I really liked about the film, that it could actually happen if somebody was that crazy. But I haven't dreamed of ways of dying recently. [Laughs]

Acting in a horror movie, you're doing a lot of running and screaming. How exhausting is that compared to a less horrific movie?

AD: Definitely, being an actress part of what you have to do is try to stay in as best shape as you can. I knew that I was going to a very hot place — we shot in Louisiana in July and August, so I prepared. I did hot yoga and I sort of tried to prepare so I wouldn't pass out on set, and I made it through.



Trey Songz

Having done this movie now, would you say you're both more or less afraid of chain saws?

TS: I would say chain saws are petrifying.

AD: Yes. I think I've always probably been scared of chain saws, but I've never really encountered a chain saw until this movie.

TS: It was like a whole row of them on set. ... I crept off into the trailer that you're not supposed to be in and touched them, and they were kind of like not dull. [Laughs]

AD: Yeah, they're real chain saws.

Ned Ehrbar
METRO WORLD NEWS

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Letters

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This battle can't be won with military funding

The middle class dodged most of the bullets from the Battle of the Cliff, but the guns from the promised negotiations on spending cuts are squarely aimed at us.

The president has expressed a willingness to reduce spending on popular programs like Medicare and he's still talking about "entitlement reform," which means cuts to Social Security. Republican lawmakers are salivating at the prospect of getting these cuts.

Where in all this chatter is a mention of cuts to the bloated Pentagon budget? Numerous reports in the last couple of years document that $100 billion per year could be safely cut from military spending, with hundreds of costly overseas bases as the chief culprits of over-spending. Cutting $100 billion per year would just about eliminate the federal deficit.

Effective job creation is the best long-term solution to the budget deficit, and studies document that military spending is the least effective way to create jobs. Education, health care, renewable energy, and yes, even tax cuts, create more jobs than giving money hand over fist to the war profiteers, as we do now. Military spending has almost doubled in the last decade. It's no coincidence that jobs have declined.

Let's flip this script: First cut the Pentagon. Remember, Social Security has added not one dime to our deficit.

JANE SWIFT DUGDALE, VIA E-MAIL

Money doesn't grow on trees — unless you're the US mint

RE: "YOUR HOUSE IS A BIT SMALLER THAN THE US" (METRO, JAN. 3) The age-old mistake of equating government with an ordinary household goes deeper than the government spending on thousands of things that households do not as mentioned in the letter by Joesph Connell. The major mistake is that the government can continually issue or borrow, as this U.S. government currently does, all the money it needs with digits on a computer. Households can not. Households have to earn the money, every day. There is actually no debt ceiling on the government's ability to print money. The fiscal cliff fear talk is just talk!

When we understand our money is debt and inform our legislators that it is better to issue the money, interest- and debt-free, then we will cease to have these media fears of running out of money! Again, a sovereign nation can NEVER run out of money!

DAVID SNIECKUS, VIA E-MAIL

Businesses have lots of spare cash — let's take it!

Why is the U.S. government taxing individuals when big businesses are sitting on a trillion dollars? They say they're waiting for some sign to indicate that it's time to invest. Isn't the huge number of people out of work a good sign that it's time to put at least some of that capital back into the free-market system? I think we could do with a straight sales tax instead of an income tax, myself. And you politicians, wrangling over the budget: There's your money. Go get it, I dare you.

DAN COMBS, VIA E-MAIL

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Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words.
Metro reserves the right to edit all letters.
Please include your name and contact information.

Horoscope

♑ Capricorn **Dec. 22-Jan. 19.**
Even if you don't seek it, your very presence is likely to command attention. Thus, you need to be extra careful of your demeanor, because the impression you make will be lasting.

♒ Aquarius **Jan. 20-Feb. 19.**
To achieve an important objective, you need to proceed in a logical, methodical manner. If you shoot from the hip instead, the results are apt to be quite disappointing.

♓ Pisces **Feb. 20-March 20.**
It behooves you to be as tactful and pleasant as possible with colleagues. Being too critical or aggressive could result in an incident that would have serious ramifications.

♈ Aries **March 21-April 19.**
If you are required to handle a confidential matter for another, treat it with the respect you would wish if someone were doing the same for you. Remember, the buck stops with you on this one.

♉ Taurus **April 20-May 20.**
It would be best to keep a disagreement with your mate to yourself. Once you allow outsiders to enter the picture, complications are likely.

♊ Gemini **May 21-June 20.**
Since your powers of observation appear to be more acute than ever, don't focus simply on others' shortcomings while totally ignoring their good attributes.

♋ Cancer **June 21-July 22.**
Make sure to handle your resources as prudently as possible. Take care to avoid taking on any long-term debt.

♌ Leo **July 23-Aug. 22.**
Guard against temptations to rehash an old, smoldering issue with another whose point of view differs considerably. Nothing will be gained except more strife.

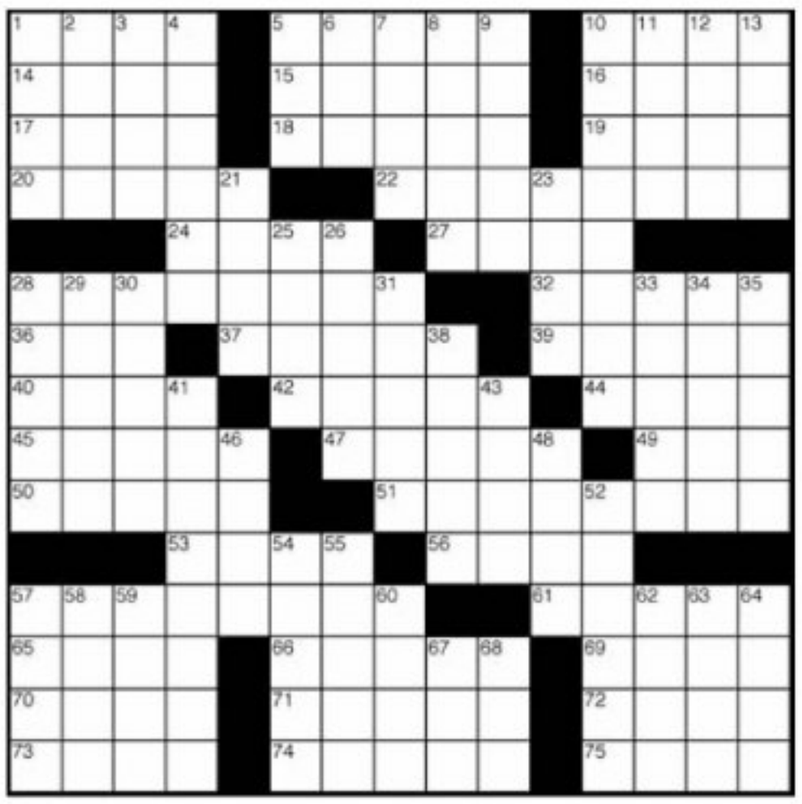
♍ Virgo **Aug. 23-Sept. 22.**
Your frame of mind will affect how you handle pressure. Take care not to make everything you do more complicated than it needs to be.

♎ Libra **Sept. 23-Oct. 23.**
If you've been feeling financially squeezed, it might be smart to review your expenses to see if any can be eliminated or, at the very least, cut down.

♏ Scorpio **Oct. 24-Nov. 22.**
You can easily get tunnel vision when immersed in a project, and it could be one of those times. Flow with the majority's view instead of insisting on your way.

♐ Sagittarius **Nov. 23-Dec. 21.**
Premature disclosures about an important objective might be used against you. Be careful what you say to whom, and play it close to the vest. **BERNICE BEDE OSOL**

Across
1 Ran off
5 Smaller than mini
10 Email nuisance
14 Clever ploy
15 Different
16 — pro quo
17 Viking name
18 Cope with change
19 WWW addresses
20 Pastes
22 Go over the lines
24 "Hawkeye" Pierce
27 Parliament member
28 Seashore
32 Get a grip
36 Expert
37 Hair-raising
39 Kind of panel
40 ATM codes
42 Wheeled platform
44 "— drummers drumming . . ."
45 Flurries
47 Wet behind the ears
49 Casual farewell
50 White heron
51 Force
53 Highway
56 Bygone despot
57 Knight's thing
61 Edge past
65 Name in blue jeans
66 Magna cum —
69 Wrench or hammer
70 Persia, today
71 Happen
72 Not just a star
73 Twinge
74 Hick
75 Comet's luminous cloud



Down
1 Lily pad sitter
2 Period of quiet
3 Hairy twin
4 Vanquish
5 Ostrichlike bird
6 "— be an honor!"
7 Burn slightly
8 Fend off
9 Garden products brand
10 Flight formation
11 Happy rumble
12 Feels crummy
13 Dept. store inventory
21 Gin-fizz flavor
23 Joule fractions
25 — Scott decision
26 Burr or Spelling
28 Expire
29 Sealing a deal
30 Operatic voice
31 Soft purple
33 It may be airtight
34 Panasonic rival
35 Groom carefully
38 Mr. Janeway
41 Veering
43 Cousteau's middle name
46 Ancient colonnade
48 Hurlers' stats
52 Movie reviewer
54 Brass or bronze
55 Harry and Ron's nemesis
57 Barrette
58 Vindictive goddess
59 John, in Russia
60 "Oh, gross!"
62 Long-gone bird
63 Impend
64 Jazzy Fitzgerald
67 Unpaid
68 Schubert's "The — King"

	2			7		9		
	8	6			1			3
	1		2			8		
6	3				8	2		
	7						8	
		5	1				6	4
		7			2		1	
9			7			6	3	
		8		9			4	

SUDOKU **LEVEL: EASY**

9	4				7			
2				8		7		
			6			9		1
4		2		9			7	5
		6				8		
7	5			1		4		6
8		5			3			
		4		5				3
			4				8	7

SUDOKU **LEVEL: HARD**

Solution to Thursday's crossword

C	O	M	I	C		S	W	O	R	D		P	B	S
O	H	A	R	A		A	O	R	T	A		L	E	O
P	O	S	E	R		G	R	E	E	N		A	L	L
			P	I	A	N	O		C	H	I	L	I	
S	H	A	V	E	R	S		B	E	A	D	E	D	
C	A	S	I	T	A		S	T	A	R	R			
O	T	I	S		Q	U	A	Y	S		K	W	A	I
T	H	A	I			R	I	P			B	A	G	S
T	A	N	G		M	E	L	O	N		A	X	E	L
		O	B	E	Y	S		E	O	C	E	N	E	
C	R	A	T	E	D			W	I	N	K	S	A	T
O	A	T	H	S		S	T	E	L	E				
I	D	A		T	A	P	E	D		I	N	F	R	A
F	A	R		E	Y	I	N	G		D	O	L	B	Y
S	R	I		D	E	N	S	E		A	G	A	I	N

How to play Sudoku: Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

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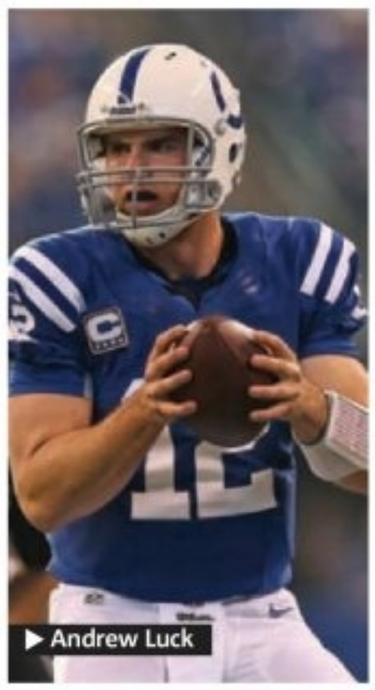
In the news

Tough stretch
Rajon Rondo and the Celtics have lost four straight games heading into Friday's home game against the Pacers. Boston then goes on the road to face Atlanta on Saturday and the Knicks on Monday.

Pick your poison

Patriots sit back and watch Either Colts, Ravens or Texans will be in Foxboro next week What is the easiest path to the AFC title game?

GETTY IMAGES


Andrew Luck

Ray Lewis

JJ Watt

Although the Patriots will be off this weekend, it doesn't mean the games being played don't have any relevance to Pats fans as New England's opponent in the divisional round, (Jan. 13, 4:30 p.m., Gillette Stadium), will be determined. Here is a look at the possible opponents for New England:

Ravens (Avoid! Avoid!)
This is the potential matchup which should scare Patriots fans the most. The common thread between teams who have defeated New England this season (including the Ravens, 31-30, in Week 3) is physicality — a trademark of this franchise. Baltimore has won a playoff game in each of the last four seasons with coach John Harbaugh at the helm. As if Baltimore needed any more motivation, linebacker Ray Lewis announced this week that he will retire following the playoffs, which should give the team something more to play for as they attempt to send him out on top.
The Scenario: If Cincy beats Houston and the Ravens take down Indy.

Texans (Bring 'em on)
Houston limped into the playoffs losing three out of its last four games, going from the best team in the AFC to the No. 3 seed and having to play on wild card weekend. The Patriots played arguably their best game of the season against Houston in Week 14, pasting the Texans, 42-14, on Monday Night Football. The Texans do have the seventh best offense in the league, averaging 371.1 yards per game and are eighth in points per game with 26, but New England limited them to 323 yards and 12 points just over a month ago.
The Scenario: If the Texans beat Cincy.

Colts (Ho-hum)
Despite the rally behind head coach Chuck Pagano's emotional return, the Colts might be the team Patriots fans want to face the most.
New England defeated the Colts, 59-24, at Gillette Stadium in Week 11 and would have no problem scoring points against them as they rank 21st in the league against the pass and 29th against the run.
Although quarterback Andrew Luck has had a sensational rookie season, the Colts defense will eventually be their downfall.
The Scenario: If Cincy beats Houston and the Colts down the Ravens.

Ryan Hannable
sports@metro.us

The cold, hard football facts

A look at the NFL through the eyes of the stat experts at Coldhard football facts.com:

Tim Tebow to the rescue
Nine NFL teams fired their general manager or coach on "Black Monday," including two that fired both. All nine of those teams suffered from bad quarterback play and would have been better with Jets back-up Tim Tebow at the helm. Tebow's 81.2 career Real QB Rating would have been the 14th in the NFL this year and better than the rating of every team forced to fire a coach or general manager.

Real QB Rating: Tebow vs. teams that fired coaches/GMs
1. Tim Tebow — 81.2
2. Buffalo — 76.7 (19th)
3. San Diego — 74.7 (22nd)
4. Chicago — 71.5 (24th)
5. Philadelphia — 71.3 (25th)
6. Cleveland — 68.1 (28th)
7. Jacksonville — 65.9 (29th)
8. NY Jets — 57.5 (30th)
9. Kansas City — 56.7 (31st)
10. Arizona — 54.1 (32nd)

Metro's NFL playoff picks

Metro's sports editors predict who will hoist the Lombardi in New Orleans:

Matt Burke, Metro Boston Patriots over 49ers. Homer pick! Brady gets ring No. 4.
Mark Osborne, Metro New York Packers over Broncos. Veteran QBs square off but Peyton's comeback comes up just short.
Mike Greger, Metro Philadelphia 49ers over Broncos. Put some trust in the NFL's best defense. In a throwback, Peyton chokes on the big stage.

Weekend, January 4-6, 2013

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